

MMA Testimony  
On Senate Bills 271,272,274,275  
Senate Economic Development Committee  
April 27, 2011

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and committee members.

My name is Andy Such, I am the Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs for the Michigan Manufacturers Association.

MMA represents over 2,500 member manufacturers who proudly make things here in Michigan and are a part of the largest sector of Michigan's economy. Although we've lost hundreds of thousands of jobs over the past decade, manufacturers still directly employ about 500,000 people in our state. That's almost half a million Michigan families who rely on a manufacturing to provide for their well being.

On behalf of that manufacturing community, MMA is here to support the approval of this package of legislation reforming the rule and permitting programs here in Michigan.

This legislation is long overdue and we congratulate all of you on your consideration of this important package of bills.

I am prepared to answer questions on specific bills. First, I'd like to comment on the package and how it aligns with MMA's regulatory policy for this legislative session.

We support the key proposals in this legislation such as

- No stricter than federal regulations (a huge issue with manufacturers)
- Comparing proposed rules with other states in the Great Lakes Region
- Requiring cost benefit analysis as a part of the Regulatory Impact Statement

- Making it clear that operational memos and other guidance documents are just that and not legally binding
- Encouraging the exemption of small businesses from the rules process and if the department insists they be included then requiring considerations for the burden this may create for small business.

We support these regulatory changes and will continue to work with the committee to clean up language to prevent any unintended consequences.

Thank you and I'll be glad to answer any questions.